

The American Community Survey

*Bringing you
information every
year about...*

Children, Families, the
Elderly, Work, Poverty,
Income, Immigration,
Race and Hispanic Origin,
Education, Housing, Married
Couples, Singles, Rural Life,
Commuting Patterns



AMERICAN
COMMUNITY
SURVEY

U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

What Is the American Community Survey?

A survey developed by the Census Bureau to provide demographic, economic, and housing profiles of America's communities every year.

The ACS will replace the decennial long form in 2010.

The American Community Survey Begins Helping You Now

Billions of government and business dollars are divided among states, communities, and population groups based on their social and economic profiles. The Federal Government, states, and communities need accurate, timely information about their social and economic condition.

To help your community make strategic plans for its future, the **American Community Survey** will provide a "video" of how your community is changing, instead of the "snapshot" that the decennial census provides once every 10 years.

The **American Community Survey** provides accurate, timely, and comparable information for making decisions such as:

- ★ Tracking the well-being of children, families, and the elderly.
- ★ Determining where to locate new schools, hospitals, and highways.
- ★ Showing a company that the town has the workforce it needs.
- ★ Evaluating programs such as welfare and workforce diversification.



American Community Survey
www.census.gov
1-888-456-7215

When Will My Community See the Results?

The 1999-2001 sites for the American Community Survey include the following counties:

Jefferson, AR
Pima, AZ
San Francisco, CA
Tulare, CA
Broward, FL
Upson, GA
Black Hawk, IA
Lake, IL
Miami, IN
De Soto Parish, LA
Hampden, MA
Calvert, MD
Iron, Reynolds, and Washington, MO
Madison, MS
Flathead and Lake, MT
Douglas, NE
Otero, NM
Bronx, NY
Rockland, NY
Franklin, OH
Multnomah, OR
Fulton, PA
Schuylkill, PA
Sevier, TN
Fort Bend and Harris, TX
Starr, TX
Zapata, TX
Petersburg, VA
Yakima, WA
Oneida and Vilas, WI
Ohio, WV

The **American Community Survey** is conducted using mailed questionnaires, telephone interviews, and visits from the Census Bureau's field representatives.

- ☆ Currently for the period 1999-2001, the **American Community Survey** is being conducted in 31 diverse sites to compare results from the survey with those from the Census 2000 long form. Information from the 1999 data collection will become available in 2000.
- ☆ Full implementation of the survey is planned for 2003 in every county in the Nation.
- ☆ Beginning in 2004, the **American Community Survey** plans to have information available every year for areas and population groups of 65,000 or more.
- ☆ For smaller population areas and population groups, it will take 3 to 5 years to accumulate information to provide accurate estimates.
- ☆ Information for areas of 20,000 or more people will be available (the 3-year average for the period 2003-2005) starting in 2006 and will be updated every year thereafter.
- ☆ Information for areas below 20,000 in population becomes available in 2008 (the 5-year average for years 2003-2007).



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**Communities
Make
Decisions
Every Day...**

**Not Every 10
Years**

The **American Community Survey** provides information every year.

HOUSING MANAGEMENT MANAGER:
“As a manager in a rapidly changing city, I depend on current data for planning and marketing of our housing units. The **American Community Survey** information will provide the senior citizen housing market and its related social service support industry with the relevant data on a timely basis.”

**DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT, STATE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION:**
“Public schools have been shortchanged millions of Federal education dollars because poverty data of school age children have not been updated in a timely manner. The **American Community Survey** has the potential to provide updated poverty estimates among states, thereby improving the likelihood of public schools students' receiving their fair share of Federal education assistance.”

HAIRDRESSER:
“I want to use my life savings to start my own beauty parlor. All I can get is 1990 data. I need the latest information to make this decision.”

**CITY PLANNING AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR:**
“Homebuilders use data to determine the likely demand for different types of housing. The data help communities decide where to locate ball parks and schools, and show businesses that a community has the right demographic labor force to meet their needs.”



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Where Can I Find Information About the American Community Survey?

Information about the **American Community Survey** is available on the Census Bureau's Internet site at <http://www.census.gov/acs/www>. Annual data are available on this site beginning July of each year.

American Community Survey data are also available through the American FactFinder at <http://factfinder.census.gov> or click on www.census.gov and select "Subjects A-Z" and choose American FactFinder.

A free annually updated CD-ROM includes:

- ☆ Profiles of key indicators
- ☆ Summary of tables for sites
- ☆ Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)
- ☆ Maps and charts created from the data with a mouse click



For More Information:



Phone:
1-888-456-7215



E-mail:
acs@census.gov



Internet:
www.census.gov/acs/www/



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SURVEY**
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

When Will My Community See Results From the **American Community Survey** 31-Site Comparison Study?*

Year	Population		
	65,000 or greater	20,000 or greater (3-year average)	Below 20,000 (5-year average)
2000	✓		
2001	✓		
2002	✓	✓ (1999-2001)	
2003	✓	✓ (2000-2002)	
2004	✓	✓ (2001-2003)	✓ (1999-2003)
2005	✓	✓ (2002-2004)	✓ (2000-2004)
2006	✓	✓ (2003-2005)	✓ (2001-2005)
2007	✓	✓ (2004-2006)	✓ (2002-2006)
2008	✓	✓ (2005-2007)	✓ (2003-2007)
2009	✓	✓ (2006-2008)	✓ (2004-2008)

*1999 was the first year data were collected in the comparison sites.



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May 2000

When Will My Community See Results From the Full, **Nationwide*** Implementation of the **American Community Survey?**

Year	Population		
	65,000 or greater	20,000 or greater (3-year average)	Below 20,000 (5-year average)
2004	✓		
2005	✓		
2006	✓	✓ (2003-2005)	
2007	✓	✓ (2004-2006)	
2008	✓	✓ (2005-2007)	✓ (2003-2007)
2009	✓	✓ (2006-2008)	✓ (2004-2008)

*Nationwide implementation begins in 2003
if Congress appropriates funds.



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May 2000